Part-time Student Profile

The University of Hawaii Community Colleges Part-time Initiative focuses on supporting part-time students (9 credits or less) complete their educational journey.

According to the Spring 2013 UHCC presentation by VP Morton, the number of part-time students has increased from 26% in 2006 to 31% in 2011. In their first year in school, part-time students’ success range from 26% (UHManU) to 36% (KauCC). Overall, this is about 15% lower than first year success of full-time students. Go to the following URL for additional information.

http://uhcc.hawaii.edu/OVPCC/docs/presentations/2013/Campus_Visit_Spring_2013_UHCC-Combined.pdf

The MAPS data on UHCC part-time students tell us that the average SSH of our part-time students range from 5.6 SSH (WinCC) to 6.2 SSH (UHManU). Go the following URL for campus specific information.

http://uhcc.hawaii.edu/OVPCC/academic_programs/docs/pt_student/Part_Time_Student_Data_Resources.pdf

Nationally, researchers have found that part-time students face multiple barriers from attitude to class schedules, all contributing to the lack of student success for part-time students.

Internal challenges faced by part-time students include attitudinal barriers which relate to the learner’s negative educational experiences in his/her past or lack the confidence to pursue further education (Merriam, Caffarella and Baugartner (2007)).

Externally, the part-time student also encounters institutional barriers that make attendance difficult. Many post-secondary institutions have practices that do not take into account the constraints part-time students experience in their lives, e.g., work requirements, family responsibilities, childcare.

Situational barriers include financial costs, scheduling conflicts, and time management. Tuition and books sometime compete with family needs. Course schedules must accommodate family and work obligations.

Potential solutions to these factors are:

1. Part-time student focused workshops (confidence builders, time management)
2. Different/alternative course scheduling
3. Prior Learning Assessment
4. Revision of admissions requirements
5. Additional financial aid

Submitted by S. Robinson
January 3, 2014